## **NEWS RELEASE**

**Indiana Criminal Justice Institute** 



### **Communications Division**

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# National Criminal Justice Association Elects Mike Cunegin to Serve on its Board of Directors

INDIANAPOLIS, IN. – The National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) Advisory Council voted Sunday, July 29, 2007 to elect Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) Executive Director, Mike Cunegin to serve on its Midwestern Region Board of Directors. Cunegin was elected during a NCJA conference in Phoenix, AZ.

In his new role, Cunegin will represent the interests of Hoosiers and fight to bring federal dollars back to the state of Indiana. These dollars will come in the form of Justice Assistance Grants (JAG) and will be allocated by ICJI to effectively address mental health issues as well as fund drug courts, re-entry programs, and non-profit organizations with a criminal justice focus.

"We elected Mike because of his vast experience and outstanding leadership abilities. As a former law enforcement officer, he has proven himself a dedicated public servant and possesses the insight to guide public policy on behalf of Indiana. Moreover, he leads an institution that remains at the forefront of making timely and tangible contributions to criminal justice systems," said Karhlton Moore, Midwestern Region board chair and Executive Director of the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services.

Cunegin is also a member of the NCJA's 2006-2007 Advisory Council and will serve on the Association's Board of Directors for a one year term. All board members voted in favor of the selection of Cunegin.

"This is an exciting opportunity that I am confident will prove to be a rewarding experience. I certainly have my work cut out for me but I welcome the challenge. My goal is to strategically administer federal tax dollars that will benefit state and local criminal justice systems. I anticipate this will be a remarkable year for Indiana and for ICJI as well," said Cunegin.

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Mike Cunegin joined the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) with more than 25 years of experience in law enforcement, budgeting procedures and working with state and county legislators.

As Executive Director of ICJI, Cunegin is responsible for administering over \$60 million in federal funding needed to promote the initiatives of criminal justice, juvenile justice, victim's services, and traffic safety. In this capacity, Cunegin also oversees statewide public policy, strategic planning, research, and evaluation.